**Lesson: The Notorious Benedict Arnold**

**Date-May 2013**

**Class-Hmiel’s American Government**

**Time-8:00-12:15**

**Big Idea: Congress today and yesterday**

**Objectives:**

\***Students will learn how the Continental Congress worked**

**\*Students will learn how regional politics shaped the colonies decisions during revolutionary times**

**\*Students will compare and contrast who these men of Congress were, and their collective strengths and weaknesses. Students can use what they have learned to examine the similarities and differences in today’s Congress. Students will examine decisions made by Congress over the past decade regarding the recently concluded war in Iraq and the ongoing/outgoing military effort in Afghanistan.**

**Procedures:**

1. **Students will watch a YouTube video from the musical 1776 in which the personalities of the Continental Congress are depicted.** 
   1. [**http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DqAdlkJDt7k&feature=related**](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DqAdlkJDt7k&feature=related)

**\*List at least two examples of how these personalities are shown and how this would have fit Arnold’s character from the book**

**(2) Students will then read a biography of one member of the Continental Congress (John Adams), and compare it to examples in *The Notorious Benedict Arnold.***

**(3) Students will then examine decisions made by Congress over the past decade regarding the recently concluded war in Iraq and the ongoing military effort in Afghanistan. They will be given a handout reading on tough decisions made (a reference to the new George Bush Library)**